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INTRODUCTION

In the early 1800's a group of approximately 800 Scots settled in an area of southeastern Prince Edward Island that today is commonly referred to as the Belfast area. This area encompassed the lots 57, 58, 60 and 62 and held for its newly landed residents the hope for a new life.

Approximately 180 years later, the Scots element is still very evident in the Belfast area as are the aspirations of those early settlers.

This report will examine the social and economic characteristics of the Belfast area as recorded in the 1981 Census of Canada and where possible compare these figures to those of the province overall.

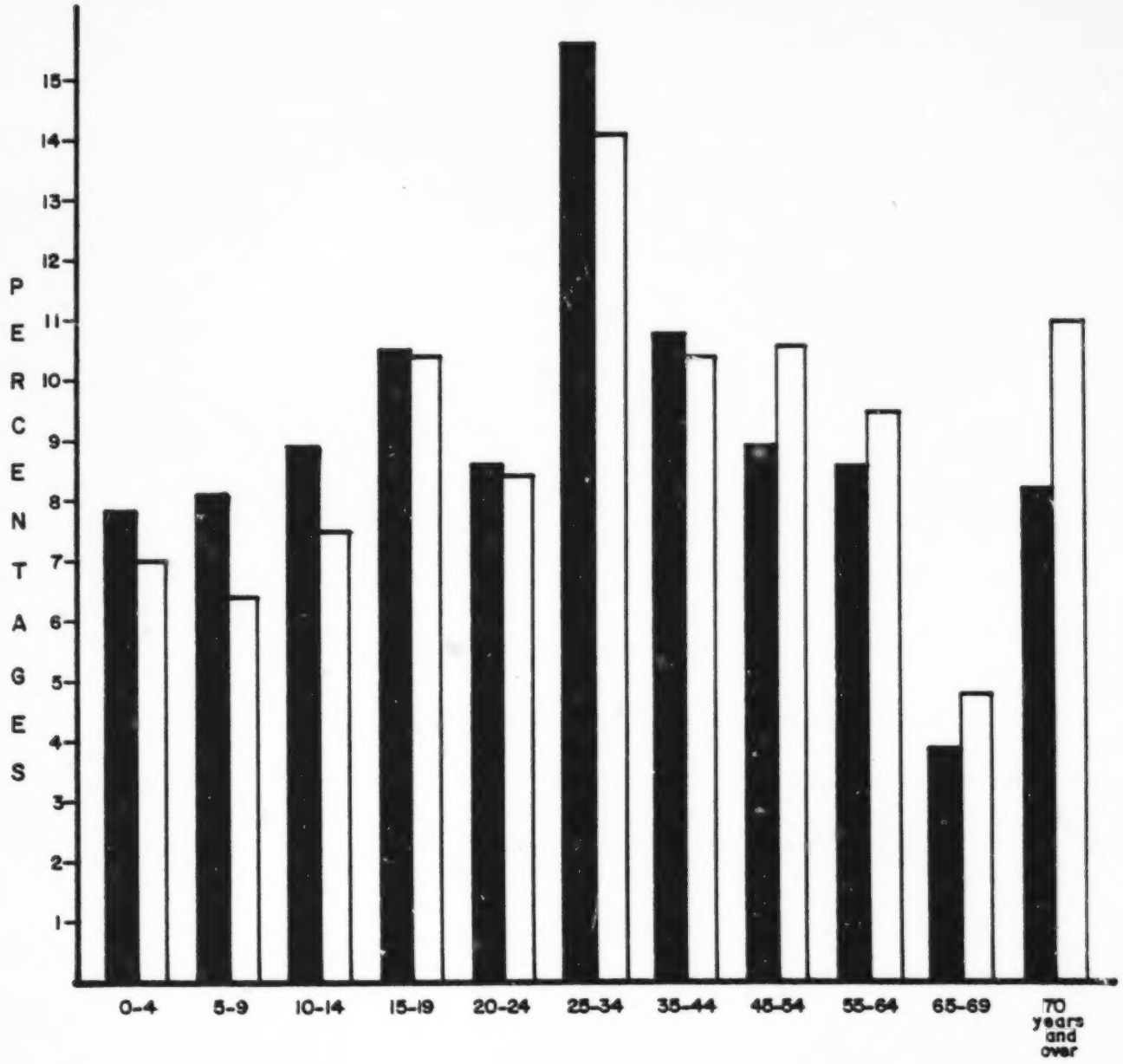
POPULATION

Between 1976 and 1981, the population of the Belfast area increased slightly in size from 2,239 to 2,258. The land area according to the 1981 Census was 331.29 square kilometers with a population density of 6.8 persons per square kilometer.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Approximately 31 percent of the population of Belfast was between 0 and 19 years of age. In comparison 35.3 percent of the population of Prince Edward Island was in this category. Figure 1 presents the age distribution for Belfast and Prince Edward Island.

Figure 1 Percentage Distribution by Age : P. E. I. and Belfast 1981



SOURCE : 1981 Census of Canada : Population , Occupied Private Dwellings , Private Households , Census Families

Belfast, however, had a higher percentage of its population over the age of 45 then did Prince Edward Island overall (Belfast - 35.9 percent, Prince Edward Island - 29.6 percent).

Approximately 33 percent of the population of Belfast was between the ages of 20 and 44 with 35 percent of the population of Prince Edward Island in that age category.

The highest percentage of the Belfast population was in the 25-34 year age range (14.1 percent) as was the case on Prince Edward Island overall where 15.6 percent of the population were between the ages of 25 and 34.

Overall Prince Edward Island had a higher percentage of its population in the 0-44 age range whereas Belfast had a higher percentage of its population over the age of 45. In particular, Belfast had a much higher proportion of the population over the age of 70.

MOBILITY STATUS

Mobility status is based on the relationship between a person's usual place of residence on Census Day and his/her usual place of residence five years earlier.

Between 1976 and 1981, 570 people residing in the Belfast area were living in a different dwelling than the one they had occupied five years earlier.

There were 345 people who took up residence in the Belfast area between 1976 and 1981. As well, 280 persons migrated from the area with approximately 27 percent of those who left, moving outside of Prince

Edward Island. Of the 345 people who took up residence in the Belfast area, 49.4 percent came from a province of Canada other than Prince Edward Island. This would suggest that either Belfast was a popular destination for those people moving to the province or native born Islanders were returning home to Belfast and area after having migrated elsewhere.

HOME LANGUAGE, MOTHER TONGUE AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Home language refers to the specific language spoken at home by a census respondent whereas mother tongue refers to the first language learned in childhood and still understood by an individual. The phrase official language refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in either of Canada's official languages.

English was the mother tongue of 2,090 people and the home language of 2,140. Five persons stated that their mother tongue was French and 90 people reported that their mother tongue was a language other than French or English. Perhaps the 90 people spoke, as one might expect, Gaelic (due to the strong Scottish heritage of the region) or Dutch.

In 1981, there were 105 persons or 4.8 percent of the population residing in the Belfast area who could speak both official languages. The comparative figure for Prince Edward Island is approximately 8 percent of the population, 3.2 percentage points higher than the figure for Belfast and area.

ETHNIC ORIGIN

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural group to which the respondents or his/her ancestors

belonged on first coming to this continent. As one might expect, approximately 86 percent of the people residing in the Belfast area are of British descent. (The corresponding figure for Prince Edward Island overall is 76.2 percent). French was the ethnic origin of 2.2 percent of the people (12 percent for Prince Edward Island) and 12.1 percent of the residents of Belfast declared they were of an origin other than English or French.

RELIGION

There were 1,535 Protestants (70.1 percent) and 470 Catholics (21.5 percent) living in the Belfast area in 1981. In comparison, for Prince Edward Island overall, 46.1 percent of the population were Roman Catholic and 49.9 percent were Protestant. Approximately 2.6 percent of the population of Prince Edward Island stated they had no religious preference compared to 8.4 percent of the population of Belfast.

PLACE OF BIRTH

Of those people who indicated their place of birth, 88 percent declared they were born in Canada and 72 percent said they were native born Islanders. Prince Edward Island had 95 percent of its residents being born in Canada and 80 percent being native born Islanders.

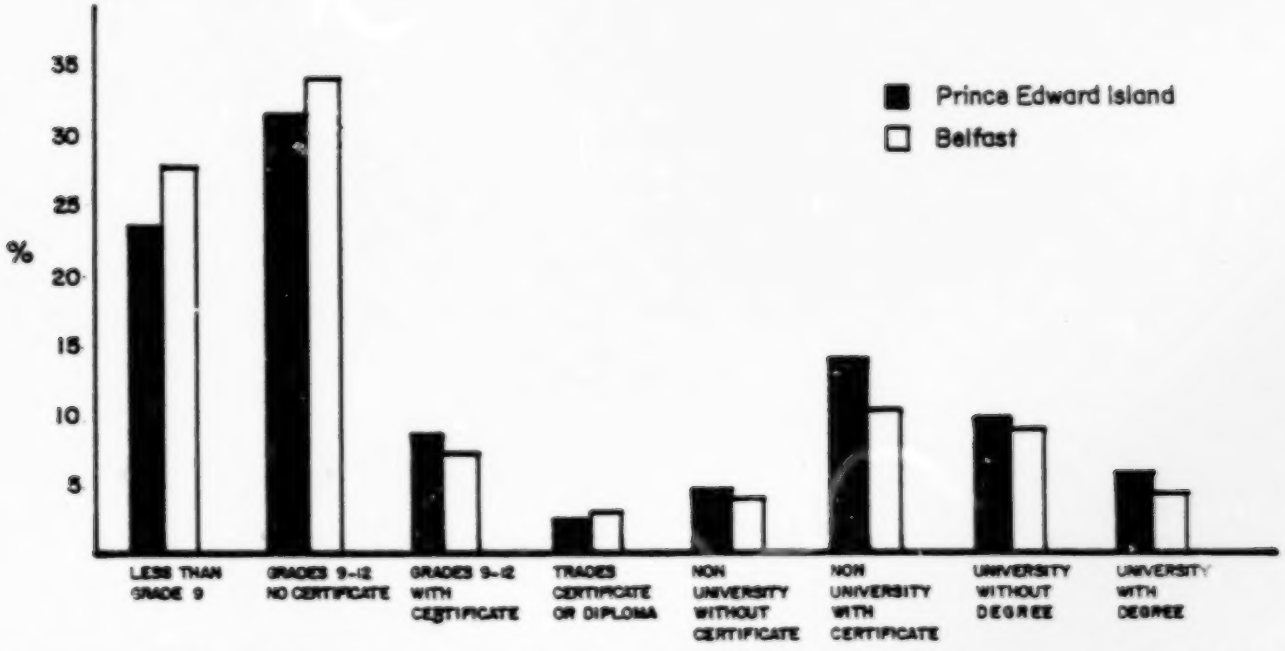
PERIOD OF IMMIGRATION

The largest influx of immigrants to the Belfast area occurred between 1965 and 1978 when 115 people immigrated to the area from outside Canada. Between 1979 and 1981, this figure had fallen to 45. When asked their age at the time of their immigration, 47.2 percent said they were 20 years of age or over when they first immigrated to Canada.

POPULATION - 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, LEVEL OF SCHOOLING

Of the population of the Belfast area, 15 years of age and over, 11.3 percent were attending school full time. The comparative figure for Prince Edward Island was 12.8 percent. Figure 2 presents the percentage breakdown of the educational levels of the population of both the Belfast area and Prince Edward Island overall.

Figure 2 Educational Level : P.E.I. and Belfast 1981



SOURCE : 1981 Census of Canada , Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island , 93-x-938, Table I

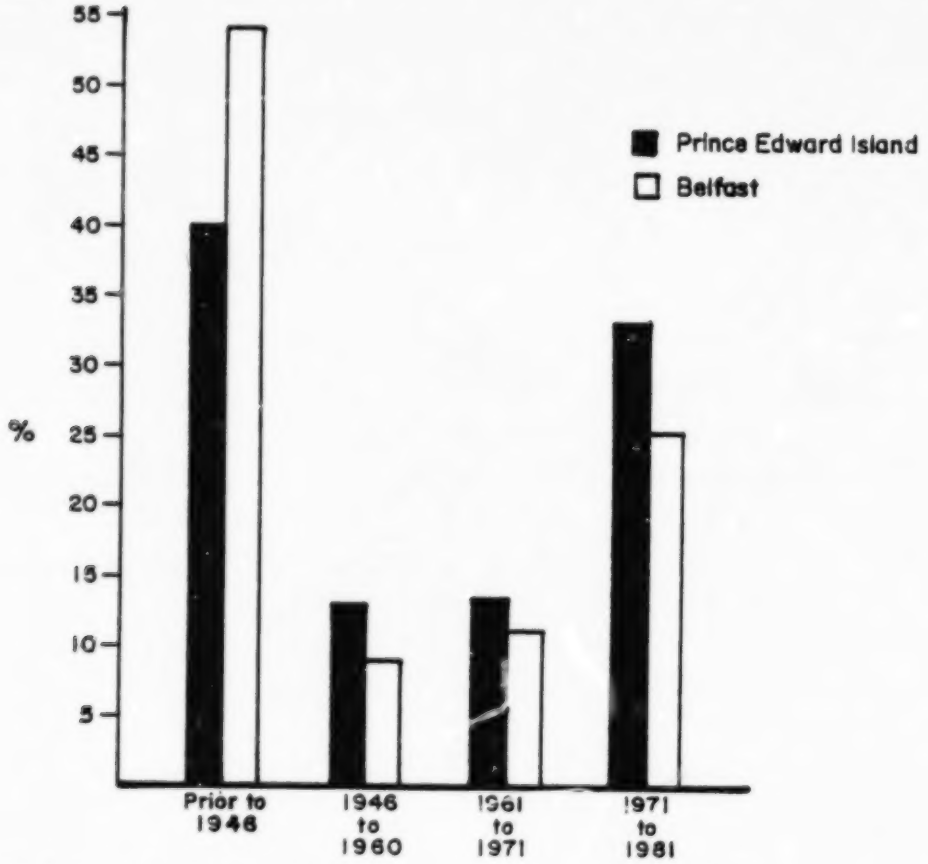
As can be seen by Figure 2, approximately 28 percent of the residents of the Belfast area had less than a grade 9 education. This is approximately 5 percentage points higher than the provincial figure.

A secondary certificate for grades 9 - 12 was held by 7.3 percent of the population of the Belfast area in comparison to 8.3 percent in the province. A trades certificate or diploma was held by 2.9 percent of the population of the Belfast area which is slightly higher than the percentage share with a trades certificate or diploma for the province. Non-university certificates and university degrees were held by 10.2 percent and 4.4 percent respectively in the Belfast area as compared to 13.7 percent and 6.1 percent on a provincial basis.

OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS

There were 745 occupied private dwellings in the Belfast area in 1981 with the average value per dwelling being $35,825.00. For Prince Edward Island, the average value of a dwelling in 1981 was $40,230.00. Figure 3 presents the percentage of houses built in both the Belfast area and Prince Edward Island overall according to date of construction.

Figure 3 Date of House Construction: P.E.I. and Belfast 1981



SOURCE: 1981 Census of Canada, Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island, 93-x-938, Table 1

As can be seen in Figure 3, more houses were built in the Belfast area prior to 1946 than on Prince Edward Island overall. However, between 1971 and 1981, there was a larger percentage of dwellings built on Prince Edward Island overall then in the Belfast Area. Since 1946, the number of houses built in the Belfast area is much lower than on Prince Edward Island overall.

The average number of rooms per dwelling in the Belfast area was approximately 7 in 1981.

LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

LABOUR FORCE

There were 890 males and 840 females, 15 years of age and over residing in the Belfast area in 1981. The labour force, however, consisted of 600 males (67.4 percent of the adult male population) and 370 females (44 percent of the adult female population). Comparatively, 74.7 percent of the adult male population of Prince Edward Island and 49.4 percent of the adult female population were involved in the labour force.

EMPLOYED

There were 540 males and 285 females employed in the Belfast area in 1981, meaning that 90 percent of the male labour force and 77 percent of the female labour force were employed.

The figures for Prince Edward Island overall were slightly lower for males with approximately 89.7 percent of the male labour force being employed in 1981. Of the female labour force for Prince Edward Island 86.1 percent were employed in 1981.

UNEMPLOYED

The number of unemployed males and females in the Belfast area according to the 1981 Census were 65 and 80.

According to the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission Claimant statistics on July 5, 1984, there were 166 males and 126 females with open claims from the Belfast area. Table 1 presents a breakdown by occupation by sex for the unemployment insurance claims from the Belfast area.

TABLE 1

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS

July 5, 1984

CCDO	OCCUPATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
11	Managerial, Administrative & related	0	0	2	1.6	2	0.7
21	Sciences, Engineering	1	.6	0	0	1	0.3
23	Social Sciences & Religion	0	0	3	2.4	3	1.0
27	Teaching & Related	1	.6	6	4.8	7	2.4
31	Medicine & Health	1	.6	4	3.2	5	1.7
33	Artistic, Literary	0	0	2	1.6	2	.7
41	Clerical & Related	7	4.2	20	15.9	27	9.2
51	Sales Occupations	0	0	8	6.3	8	2.7
61	Service Occupations	6	3.6	15	11.9	21	7.2
71	Farming, Horticultural	21	12.7	52	41.3	73	25.0
73	Fishing, Hunting & Trapping	2	1.2	0	0	2	.7
75	Forestry, Logging	1	.6	2	1.6	3	1.0
77	Mining, Quarrying	1	.6	0	0	1	.3
81/82	Processing	7	4.2	9	7.1	16	5.5
83	Machining	3	1.8	1	.8	4	1.4
85	Fabricating	11	6.6	0	0	11	3.8
87	Construction	47	28.3	1	.8	48	16.4
91	Transportation Equipment	17	10.2	0	0	17	5.8
95	Other Crafts Equipment	1	.6	0	0	1	.3
99	Occupations Not Elsewhere Classified	39	23.5	1	.8	40	13.7
	TOTAL	166	100.0	126	100.0	292	100.0

SOURCE: Canada Employment and Immigration Administrative Data

The construction occupations accounted for 28.3 percent of the open claims for males in the Belfast area followed by occupations not elsewhere classified with 23.5 percent and farming and horticultural with 12.7 percent.

For females, 41.3 percent of the open claims were classified under the farming and horticultural occupations followed by clerical and related with 15.9 percent and service occupations with 11.9 percent.

Overall, the farming and horticultural occupations accounted for 25 percent of the open claims with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. Next came construction which accounted for 16.4 percent of all open claims from the Belfast area and occupations not elsewhere classified with 13.7 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate for Belfast males according to the 1981 Census of Canada was 11.05 percent compared to 9.25 percent for those males 25 years of age and over. The male unemployment rate for Prince Edward Island in 1981 was 10.3 percent. Males over the age of 25 had a rate of 8.1 percent.

For females residing in the Belfast area, the unemployment rate was 21.4 percent with those women 25 years of age and over recording an unemployment rate of 19.6 percent. Provincially, the female unemployment rate was 13.9 percent with those women 25 years of age and over having a rate of 12.2 percent. Thus, the male unemployment rate in Belfast was .75 of a percentage point higher than the overall provincial unemployment rate. The female unemployment rate in Belfast of 21.4 was much higher than the provincial figure of 13.9 percent.

PARTICIPATION RATE

Participation rate refers to the percentage of the total population who are working or looking for work. The participation rates for males and females in the Belfast area in 1981 were 70.5 percent and 45.6 percent. These figures are lower than the provincial participation rates for males and females which in 1981 were 74.7 percent and 49.4 percent.

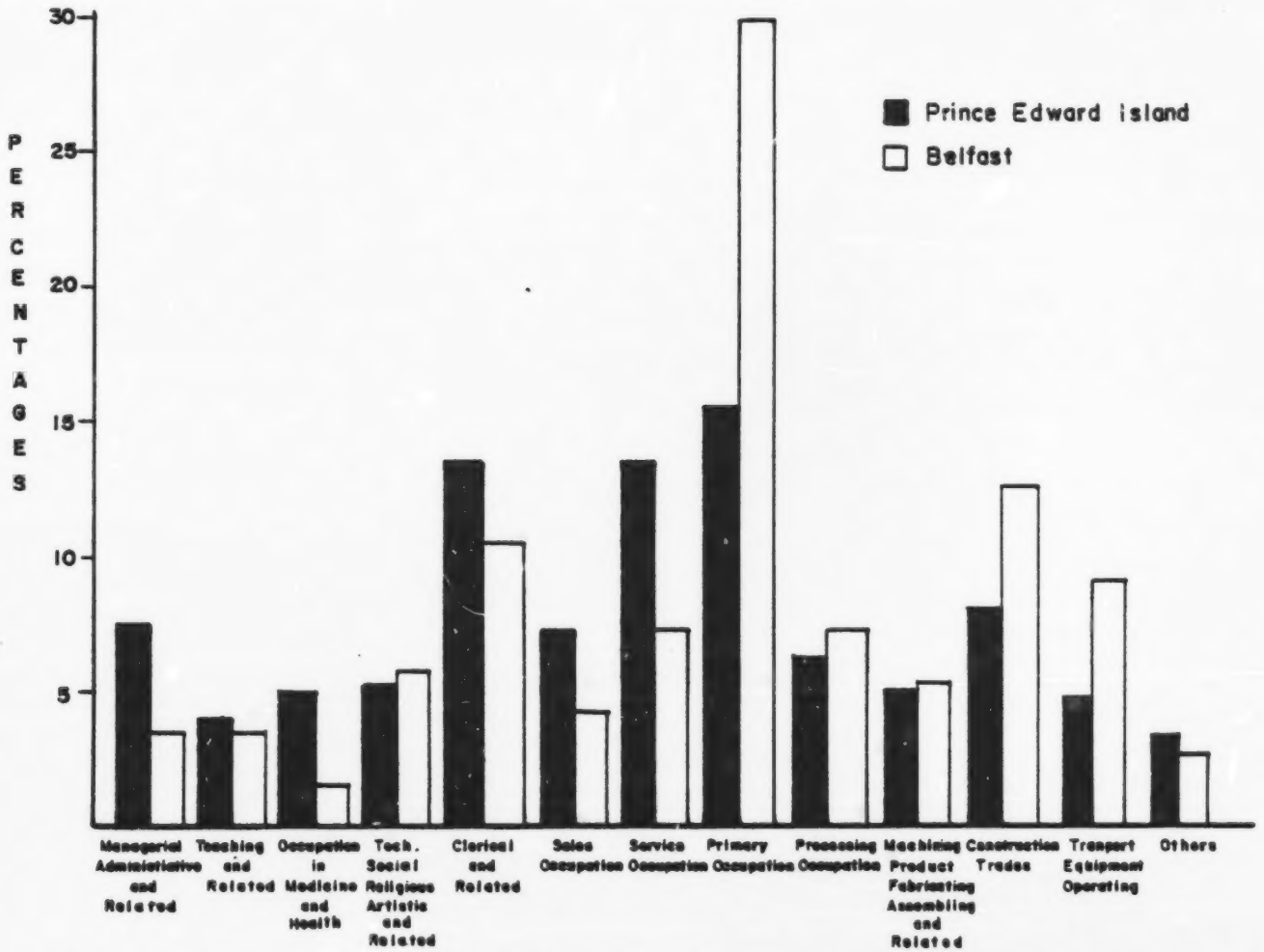
For males between the ages of 15 and 24, the participation rate was 83.7 percent with the female figure for the same age group at 66 percent. Males and females, 25 years of age and over had a participation rate in 1981 of 68.2 percent and 40.7 percent. (On a provincial basis, these figures were males, 15 - 24, 69 percent, females, 15 - 24, 57.9 percent and males 25 and over, 76.8 percent and females, 25 years and over, 56.5 percent).

The participation rates for males and females, 15 - 24 is higher in the Belfast area than the figure for the province overall.

OCCUPATIONS

Figure 4 presents a breakdown of the major occupations in the Belfast area, the province overall, as collected in the 1981 Census of Canada.

Figure 4 Labour Force by Occupation, P.E.I. and Belfast 1981



SOURCE: 1981 Census of Canada: Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island, 93-x-938, Table 1.

As can be seen in Figure 4, the primary occupations in Belfast accounted for 29.7 percent of the labour force, a significantly larger portion than for the province overall. Construction, transport equipment operating, processing, technological, social, religious, artistic, and related and machining, product fabricating, assembling and related also accounted for a larger portion of the Belfast labour force than on a provincial basis.

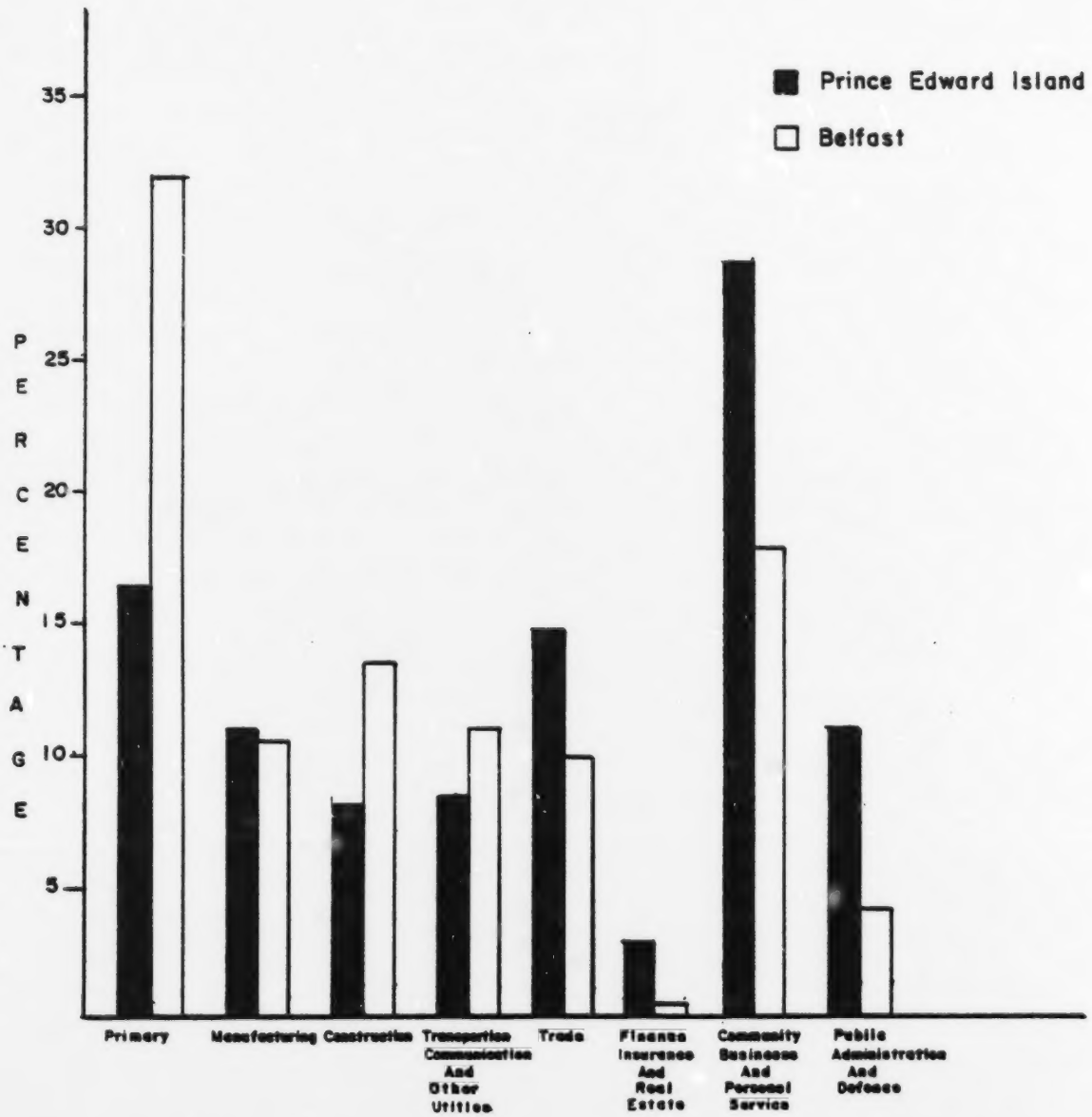
The leading occupations for males in Belfast, were the primary occupations (35.5 percent) followed by construction trades (19.8 percent) and transport equipment operating (14 percent). For Prince Edward Island overall, the leading occupations were primary (22.5 percent) and construction trades (13.5 percent) as was the case in Belfast. Unlike Belfast, however, transport equipment operating for Prince Edward Island overall only had 5.5 percent of the total male labour force. Managerial administrative and related had the third highest percentage share of the labour force on Prince Edward Island at 9.5 percent.

For females, the leading occupations in Belfast were clerical and related (21.1 percent), primary (19.7 percent) and service (14.1 percent). The three leading occupations on Prince Edward Island for women were clerical and related (27 percent) service occupations (21.2 percent) and occupations in medicine and health (10.2 percent).

INDUSTRY

Figure 5 shows a breakdown of the labour force by industry in both Belfast and area and Prince Edward Island overall.

Figure 5 Labour Force by Industry, P.E.I. and Belfast 1981



SOURCE: 1981 Census of Canada: Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island, 93-938, Table 1.

The leading industries in 1981 in the Belfast area were the primary industries (31.9 percent), community business and personal service (17.8 percent) and construction (13.6 percent).

In comparison, the leading industries for Prince Edward Island overall were community business and personal service (28.6 percent) followed by primary (16.4 percent) and trade (14.8 percent).

It is quite evident that Belfast has a higher percentage share of its labour force involved in the primary industry such as farming, fishing and forestry than Prince Edward Island overall.

CLASS OF WORKER

Class of worker refers to the classification of persons 15 years of age and over according to whether a person mainly worked for someone else for wages, salaries, commission or payment in kind or worked without pay for a relative of the same household or mainly worked for himself or herself with or without paid help in the work reported.

Approximately 76 percent of the males and 83.1 percent of the females living in Belfast and area in 1981 were paid workers. These figures for the area are lower than the provincial figures for paid workers which were 82.5 percent for males and 94.8 percent for females.

Overall, it would seem that a higher percentage of the population of Belfast and area are self-employed than for the province overall.

1980 INCOME
TOTAL INCOME

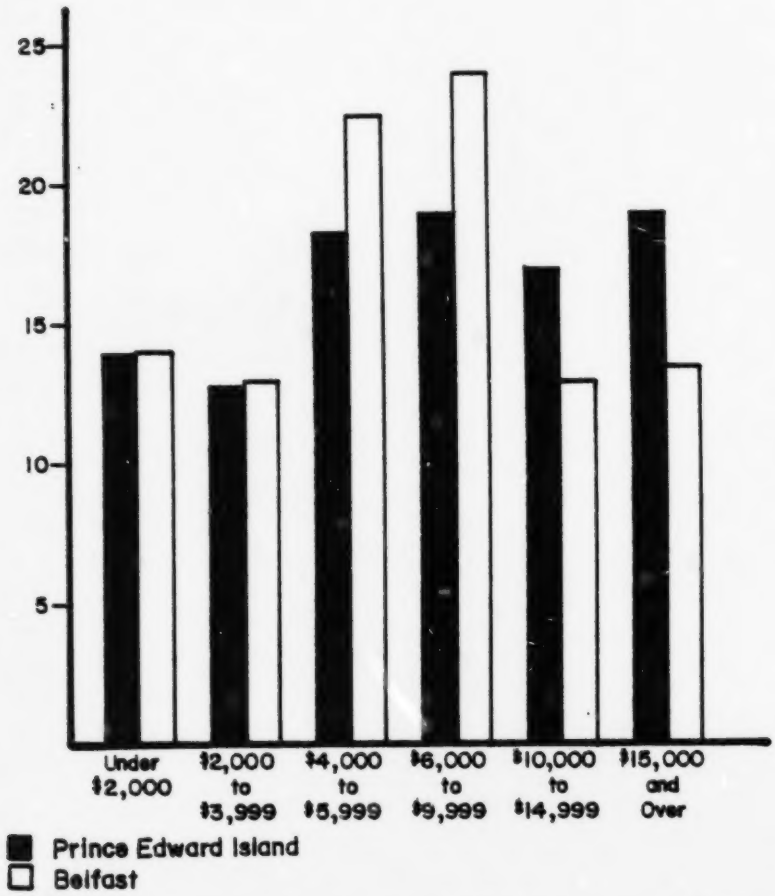
Total income is the sum of amounts received during 1980 by an income recipient from the following sources of income:

- wages and salaries
- net income from non-farm self employment
- net income from farm self-employment
- old age pensions
- family allowances
- unemployment insurance benefits
- other government payments
- investment income

and retirement pensions and other money income

In 1980, there were 835 males and 680 females residing in the Belfast area who received an income of some amount. Figure 6 presents the percentage share of the population of both Belfast and area and Prince Edward Island overall who received an income in 1980.

Figure 6 Total Income - P.E.I. and Belfast, 1971



SOURCE : 1981 Census of Canada - Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island, 93-x-938, Table I

As can be seen in Figure 6, approximately the same percentage of the population of Belfast and area makes under $2,000 in total as for the province overall. For Belfast and area, however, a larger percentage of the population makes between $2,000 and $9,999 then does the population of the province overall.

When broken down by sex, 12.9 percent of the males in Belfast and area who have an income of any type earned less than $2,000 in 1980 (the comparative

figure for Prince Edward Island is 9.4 percent). Females who received an income of under $2,000 in the Belfast area accounted for 15.4 percent of the female population with income (the comparative figure for Prince Edward Island was 19 percent).

Only 6.6 percent of the females in the Belfast area earned more than $15,000 in 1980 but at the provincial level 8 percent of the females earned over $15,000.

Approximately 24 percent of the males in the Belfast area who received an income earned $15,000 or more whereas at the provincial level 28.6 percent of the males received income of $15,000 or over in 1980.

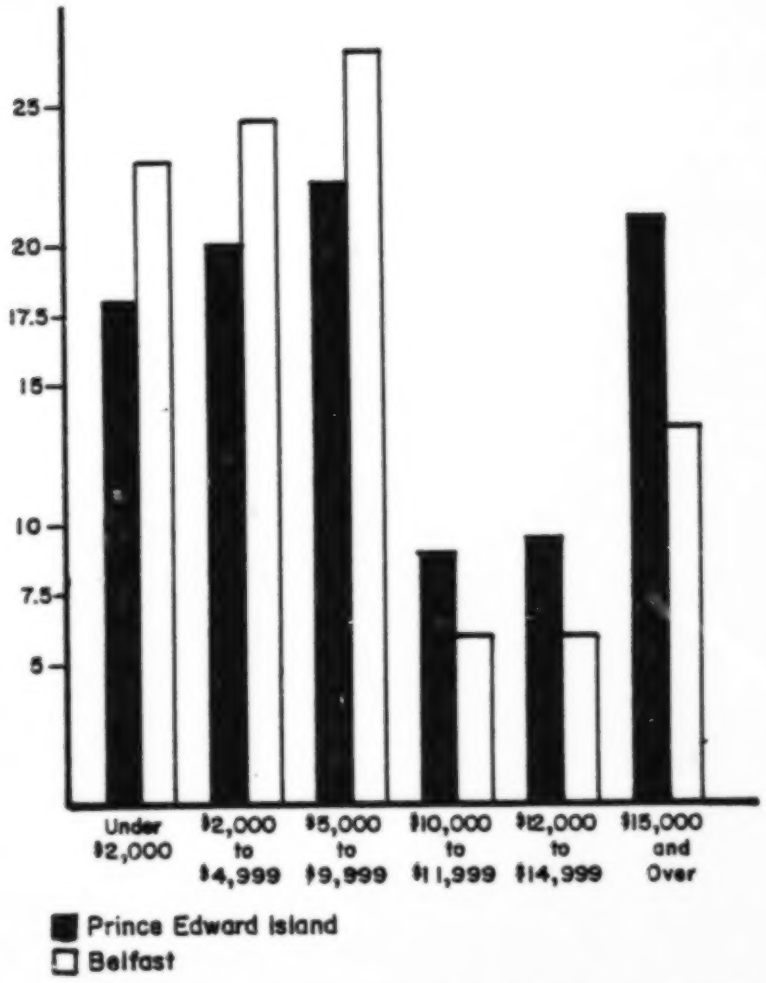
The average total income for males in Belfast and area and in the province in 1980 were $9,339 and $11,963. The difference in the average total income between females from Belfast and the province overall was less drastic with the figure for Belfast being $6,355 and the comparative figure for the province being $6,528.00.

EMPLOYMENT INCOME

Employment income refers to the total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during 1980 as wages and salaries; net income from non farm self-employment and/or net farm income.

In 1980, there were 615 males and 395 females earning income from employment in the Belfast area. The average employment income for males in 1980 was $8,318 and $6,235 for females. Provincially, the average employment income for males was $11,561 and $6,405 for females. Figure 7 gives an overview of the percentage share of the labour force earning various employment incomes for both the province and Belfast and area.

Figure 7 Employment Income : P.E.I. and Belfast, 1971



SOURCE : Census of Canada - Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Prince Edward Island , 93-x-938, Table I

More people from Belfast and area earn between $0 and $9,999 than for the province overall, whereas Prince Edward Island has a higher proportion earning $10,000 or more.

When employment income is broken down by sex, 23.1 percent of the males and 22.8 percent of the

females in 1980 who had an employment income earned less than $2,000. On Prince Edward Island overall, 12.6 percent of the males and 25.7 percent of the females earned less than $2,000.

On the other hand, 17.4 percent of the males and 7.6 percent of the females earned $15,000 or more in employment income in 1980 from the Belfast area. For Prince Edward Island, the comparative figures were 20.8 percent for males and 8.9 percent for females.

INCIDENCE OF LOW INCOME

There were 615 economic families or groups of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, or adoption residing in the Belfast area in 1980. As well, economic families can refer to persons living common law because at present these persons are now considered married regardless of their legal status and appear as married couples.

Approximately 15 percent of all economic families in the Belfast area were considered to be low income families in 1981. This figure for incidence of low income which, according to the 1981 Census was 14.5 percent.

Of those people who were considered to be unattached individuals, 48.6 percent were low income in the Belfast area and 46.5 percent were low income in the province overall.

SUMMARY

- Between 1976 and 1981, the population of Belfast increased by .8 percent to 2,258.
- Belfast, between 1976 and 1981, experienced a net in-migration with 345 people taking up residence in the Belfast community and 280 people leaving.
- Approximately 5 percent of the population of Belfast in 1981 were bilingual.
- As can be expected, 86 percent of the residents of the Belfast area are of British descent.
- Protestants accounted for 70 percent of those persons who indicated their religion in the 1981 Census.
- Approximately 72 percent of the residents of Belfast were native born Islanders.
- The Belfast area experienced its largest influx of immigration between 1965 and 1978 when 115 people immigrated to the area from outside Canada.
- Of the population of Belfast, 15 years of age and over, 11.3 percent were attending school full time in 1981.
- Approximately 28 percent of the adult population of the Belfast area had less than a grade 9 education.
- Secondary certificates for grades 9 - 12 were held by 7.3 percent of the population of Belfast, 15 years of age and over.
- Non-university certificates and university degrees were held by 10.2 percent and 4.4 percent of the residents of Belfast.
- The average value of a private dwelling in the Belfast area in 1981 was $35,825.00.
- The majority (54.4 percent) of the occupied private dwellings in the Belfast area were built prior to 1946.
- The Belfast and area labour force consisted of 600 males and 370 females of which 540 males and 285 females were employed.

- According to the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission on July 5, 1984, there were 166 males and 126 females from the Belfast area with open unemployment insurance claims.
- The unemployment rate in the Belfast area in 1981 for males and females was 11.05 percent and 21.4 percent respectively.
- The male and female participation rates, in 1981 were 70.5 percent and 45.6 percent.
- The primary occupations in Belfast accounted for 29.7 percent of the labour force followed by construction with 12.5 percent and clerical and related with 10.4 percent.
- The leading industries in Belfast in 1981 were the primary industries (31.9 percent), community, business and personal service (17.8 percent) and construction (13.6 percent).
- Approximately 76 percent of the males and 83.1 percent of the females living in Belfast in 1981 were paid workers.
- The average total income for males and females in the Belfast area was $9,339.00 and $6,355 respectively.
- The average employment income in Belfast in 1980 was $8,318.00 for males and $6,235.00 for females.
- The average family income in Belfast in 1980 was $15,987.00.
- There were 615 economic families residing in Belfast in 1980 of which 15 percent were considered to be low income.
- The incidence of low income for unattached individuals in Belfast was 48.6 percent.